

July 16, 1970

The Honorable George Murphy
United States Senate
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy,

Thank you for your letter of July 3rd concerning your role in the passage and implementation of S. Res. 376. I had not followed the legislative history of this proposal and was therefore unaware that you had indeed played a prominent role in it, a point which I am delighted to learn at this time.

The survey is, as you know, now under way in most intensive fashion and there will be a wide variety of inputs to it. My own personal point of view is that at the present time the outlook for dramatic improvements in the treatment of cancer is not as promising as the steps that we might undertake for its prevention, particularly by protecting the population from the impact of a number of environmental hazards whose role in cancer-production is beyond serious dispute. We have then the prospect of learning how to apply the advances in fundamental knowledge in molecular biology of recent years towards more effective approaches at therapy as well.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

Enc: DeLong counts.

Geo. MURPHY